

Important dates:

Friday 17 December 2021
Admin Office Closes

Thursday 27 January 2022
Admin Office Opens

Monday 31 January
First Day of Term 1

Monday 07 February
P&C Meeting

Monday 14 February
School Board Meeting

Thursday 17 February
School Photo Day

Friday 18 February
School Development Day
Students Do Not Attend

Monday 07 March
Labour Day

Friday 08 April
Last Day Term 1

View the

[College Events, Term Dates & Calendar](#)

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all the news [here](#)



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Digby Mercer

2021 has been a year that has presented many challenges for students and staff. Significant educational changes in the curriculum have been introduced this year and will continue into next year with Languages being a compulsory subject in Years 7 and 8 in 2022. Another significant change for Como has been a collapse in the international fee-paying student market. This has long been an area of strength for the school and a source of additional income. In the face of these challenges, we as a school have successfully responded by reassessing our priorities and implementing new strategies and structures that will leave us in great shape as we enter 2022.

The Covid pandemic has not gone away and the virus keeps changing so we are making preparations in the event of the school having to close down as per instructions from the Department of Education. Hopefully this will not happen but teachers have been preparing by creating lessons using our new management system, SEQTA.

Changes to Student Services

Mrs Nicole Richardson has been appointed to replace Mr Jarrod Dimanlig as Student Services Manager who is moving to Ocean Reef Senior High School. There was a strong field of applicants for the position however Mrs Richardson vision for the future and strong track record at this school made her the best choice. Mrs Richardson will be able to build on Mr Dimanlig's great work in what was a demanding year.

To ensure that there are always two people available in Student Services the year coordinator positions have been combined into one full-time position with the exception of the Year 12 Coordinator, Mr Josh Findlater, who will continue in the role. From another very strong field of applicants we have appointed another excellent operator who has an excellent track record. An announcement will be made in the new year once the appointment process has been completed.

Keon Bown will be continuing as our Youth Worker. Keon has to come to us with a wealth of experience and has already made good connections with our students. We have increased the time of our Chaplain Robyn Lewis and we have also provided additional administration support.

The emphasis next year will be getting back to the implementation of proactive programs that give our students the skills and information they need to make the right decisions. An exciting initiative for the Health and Physical Education Learning Area will be a focus on mental health and life skills within the lower school health education lessons.

Changes to the School Day and Bus Times

At the request of the school, bus services timed specifically for Como Secondary College that currently depart at 1515 (3:15pm) adjacent to the school grounds will now depart at 1525 (3:25pm) Monday to Friday on school days. School for students on Friday will finish at 1:30. This will provide all students, but particularly upper school students, with an opportunity on Friday afternoon to study at school in the library and then take their usual school bus home.

New Appointments

Science – Ms Jessie Russell has been appointed acting HOLA while Mr Stokes is on leave. Joining the Science team will be Claire Horner, Rhyard Sahely and Sandy Tu. These are experienced teachers who will build upon the solid results achieved in Human Biology and Biology and provide for continuity in Physics and Chemistry.

English – Mx Mitch Fenn has been appointed acting HOLA of English. The school has recruited some very capable and experienced teachers in Clyde Goodenough, Taylah Briggs, Elizabeth Martin and Charles Gabriel and a promising graduate in Jorjiah Horn.

Brody Hart and Alex Borserini will be joining the Arts Learning Area and Jasmine Foster and Genevieve Woods will be joining the Maths team. Haichen Huang will be joining the HASSL team as will Milan Bosich who is moving from Arts to HASSL. Andrew Stephens will be joining the Health and Physical education team

John McKnight will take over from Tate Napier as Teacher-in-Charge of the Hockey Program. Tate is going on long service leave. Penny Coutas will be the new Emits Coordinator. The school has appointed and outstanding Golf teacher to take from Adam Smith. This teacher's name will be announced once the appointment process has been completed.

Staff Farewells

The school farewelled three long-serving retiring staff who have made a great contribution to the school in a variety of ways. Sue Henderson has been at the school for over 30 years and has been a source of wisdom and support for the young teachers coming into the school. Similarly, Gerry Krajewski has been a great support to his fellow staff members and to many students over the years as a year coordinator. Finally, a huge thank you to Greg Stokes who has made the world around him a friendly and amiable place to be.

Mrs Joan Armstrong is leaving to become Deputy Principal at Kojonup District High School. This puts Joan within commuting distance of the family farm and her husband near Narrogin. Candice Crasto is also leaving to be closer to home at HARRISDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE as is Tyshana who will be teaching at Carine SHS and Emma Cattapan is taking on the challenge of teaching GATE students at Rossmoyne SHS. All three of these teachers have made a great contribution to the school as year coordinators. Also leaving are Annie Demonsthenous who is off to Perth College and Erica Collins who will also be having a much shorter drive to school at Coastal Lakes Community College.

Mrs Christine Emerson is off to Jerramungup to fulfil a long-held wish to teach in the country, Nathan O'Brien will be teaching Music at Butler College. In Science Shaun Middleton will be realising a long-held ambition to teach Marine Science at Ocean Reef SHS. Ellen Sabitino is leaving teaching and hopes to pursue a career in human resources. Ellen did an excellent job this year as the EMITS Coordinator.

The Teacher in Charge of Golf, Adam Smith will be moving much closer to home by taking up the position of Career Adviser at Butler College. Adam has done an excellent job in running the Golf Program and often put in many more hours above and beyond what was required. His brief when he took up the position was to increase enrolments and he leaves having fully achieved this goal.

Staff taking leave next year are Amanda Hammond for the whole year and Tate Napier who will be away for at least Term 1 and probably Term 2.

Finally, thanks to Mr Jarrod Dimanlig who is moving to Ocean Reef to be closer to his family. Jarrod's calm demeanour has been a great asset to the school and he has been someone that our students have been able to turn to when they have needed assistance.

We wish all of these staff well in their new ventures and thank them for their contribution to the school. While I am sad to see them leave I am also excited by the prospect of meeting the teachers who are replacing them. They are a mixture of young teachers and teachers who are in the prime of their careers. All of them are excited to be teaching at Como next year and participating in a strong staff development program.

We wish the Como community a safe and restful break. Enjoy the time with family and friends and we look forward to seeing you in 2022.

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Jo May - Corporate Services Manager

Contributions and Charges

It is government policy that parents should contribute towards the cost of educating their children. Given that all students benefit from the pool of collected fees, it is fair to expect that all parents should pay the balance of contributions and charges.

Contributions and charges form a large part of the school's income for learning and teaching programs in the school and supports the school in its focus to provide a quality education for all. The College is currently accepting payments for the 2021 and 2022 school year.

Turn one big payment into easy instalments, you may like to consider starting a payment plan NOW to assist with completing all payments.

Payments are accepted by cheque, cash, Visa, Mastercard, direct deposit and Qkr:

BSB: 066 102 | A/C: 00903523 | Ref: student name

Attendance

- contact the Hub's 24 hour Attendance Hotline **9365 2011** or go to the Connect homepage to advise reason for student absence before 9.00am
- for early departure provide student with a written note to request permission to leave class
- write an explanation for absence and send it via your child as soon as they return to the College
- respond promptly to Absentee Letters

Contact Details

Please advise changes via email to Como.SC.AdminSupport@education.wa.edu.au or Change of Details Form available at Administration.

MANY COMMUNICATIONS ARE SENT BY EMAIL – PLEASE ENSURE THE COLLEGE HAS YOUR CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS.

Student pick up & drop off

Parents are reminded to please use the designated areas for pick up and drop off and not the Staff Car Park near Administration. We realise the temptation particularly when the weather is unfavourable, however it can cause more congestion in an already busy area of the school. Your cooperation is much appreciated.

Closing date is 08 April 2022, please click on the link below for further details

[SECONDARY ASSISTANCE & ABSTUDY SCHEME APPLICATIONS](#)



Changes to bus services for the start of the school year 2022
Bus services timed specifically for the Como Secondary College that currently depart at 1515 adjacent to the school grounds will now depart at 1525 Monday to Friday on school days. For Friday bus times visit [Transperth](#)

**Secondhand Uniform Shop
Open**

Thurs 27 January 10-11AM

Fri 28 January 1.15-2.15PM



**Uniform Concepts
Willetton
[Opening Hours](#)
[Holiday Closures](#)**



Educating parents on practical strategies to help manage modern-day issues and challenges affecting today's youth across both primary and secondary school levels.

Como Secondary College with the support of the P&C are pleased to announce SchoolTV is now available. SchoolTV offers a wide range of resources to assist with the challenges faced by students and families today. It is a valuable and diverse resource which can be easily accessed via our [website homepage](#) using the blue TV icon on the right, alternatively click on the link below.

[SchoolTV](#) has a number covers a variety of topics with a number of reports in each

- [Healthy Body](#)
- [Cyber Safety](#)
- [Positive Parenting](#)
- [Mental Health](#)
- [School Survival](#)
- [Special Reports](#)

This time of year brings many changes for students and their families which you may find helpful from [Surviving Year 12](#) to [Starting Year 7](#).

Special Report

As families around the world prepare to celebrate Christmas by decorating their homes, singing carols, buying gifts and planning feasts, often the true meaning of Christmas can be lost due the commercial exploitation of this time of year. Many people see it as a joyous occasion to spend with family and friends, but for others it is viewed as a stressful and challenging time attributed by a combination of things such as financial pressures, relationship issues, and quite often, loneliness.

During the Christmas period, there is a huge increase in the number of calls to support organisations. Many of these callers are considered to be in a high-risk category and sadly, this is the ugly side to Christmas. Should you, or a loved one, ever feel that the pressure of Christmas becomes too much, it is important to seek help. Reach out to a trusted friend, talk to your doctor or counsellor, or phone one of the many support organisations available to you 24/7.



CAREERS WEEK

Kirsten Romany - Technologies HoLA

At the end of Term 4, our Year 9s take part in a Careers Week. As part of this, our HASS department have been leading students through many different career options and the prerequisites they need to be successful in obtaining a place. They also had the opportunity to look at WACE requirements, prerequisites for ATAR and an insight into all of the different pathway options available to them.

Bev Johnson from In Focus Careers came to speak to students about how many options are out there for students, Kirsten Romany led students through a study skills seminar, Tyshana McEwen took her Year 9s on a careers journey and farewelled her year group for the final time and Grace Bradley closed the week out with an in depth overview of pathways on offer at Como.

SCHOOL SPORT WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Congratulations to Yr 7 student Peyton who was selected for the School Sport Western Australia Inc. Cricket 12s Girls State Team.

Peyton recently participated in the Geraldton Tour which proved to be both a challenging and amazing experience inspiring Peyton to become a stronger, fitter player. Well done Peyton we look forward to hearing more.



JACARANDA TREES ON SHOW AT COMO

Thank you to staff and students for all entries to the Jacaranda Photo Competition. AMAZING. Such a variety of images capturing the beautiful tapestry of purple and blue that surrounds our school. Congratulations to our winners Bailey by Nature, Felicity T and Ella S who encapsulated this stunning annual event Monique Laves - The Arts HoLA



HOCKEY ACADEMY

Tate Napier - TIC

Awards Evening Wrap Up 2021

Thank you to the parents and guardians, special guests and students who attended the Hockey Awards Evening on Thursday 8th December 2021. In what was yet another fantastic celebration of the year, the Year 10 students are to be congratulated for their efforts in the planning of, and facilitation of the event. Jaeda Ritchie, Jackson Harmsen and Travis Blok deserve special mention for their amazing job in the shared role of Master of Ceremony. Additional shoutouts go to the design team: Mackenzie Fossilo and Taylah King – certificates; Xavier Millsted – invitations; Aidan Abel – programming; and Brandon Kift – slideshow.

We celebrated our shared success in retaining all three School Sport WA titles this year, the David Bell and Buchanan Cups, and the Ross Meadows Shield. A special mention to Brodie Hiskins and Saysha

Pillay, who were recognised for their on-field performances in the senior finals with the DIBS Medal and Ashleigh Nelson respectively.

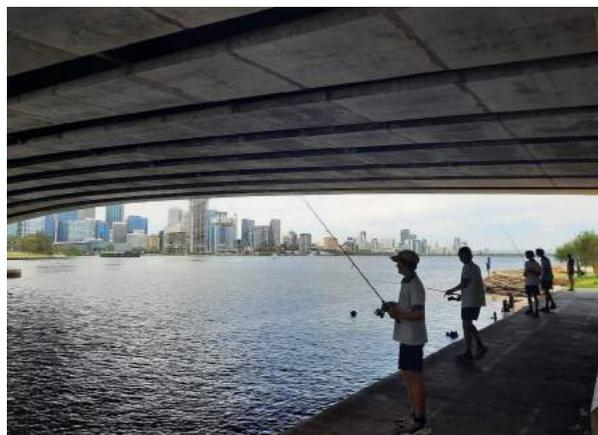
Major awards for the year went to Brodie Hiskins and Saysha Pillay (Player of the Year), Zed Kearnan and Georgia Hiskins (Junior Player of the Year), and Hannah Hudston (Goal Keeper of the Year). The Academy would like to thank Grant Mitton (Hockey Republic) and Jinder Chauhan (Hockey International) for their support and donations towards the event.

We wish all the students' and families of the program all the very best over the summer break, and look forward to seeing you back in 2022. To the Year 12s, thank you for your enthusiasm and love of the sport of hockey throughout your time here at Como. We hope to bump into you for years to come, in hockey circles far and wide!



OUTDOOR EDUCATION SEATREK

Shanara Patman - Outdoor Education Teacher



The Year 9 Outdoor Education students have enjoyed learning about fishing this term including how to rig a fishing rod, water safety and fishing locations around Perth. They have spent their practical lessons putting all their knowledge into practice attempting to lure fish on the Swan River. The class has been spirited and enthusiastic, bonding during their time together in the outdoors.

TECHNOLOGIES

Francine Preston - Food Technology

Mixed spice and ginger dough, paper templates cut, dough rolling on wooden sticks for even thickness, baked and set for 5 days, students own decoration using found lollies, home-brought nerds, and royal icing. The silence of concentration was evident, peaceful!..AND creative!

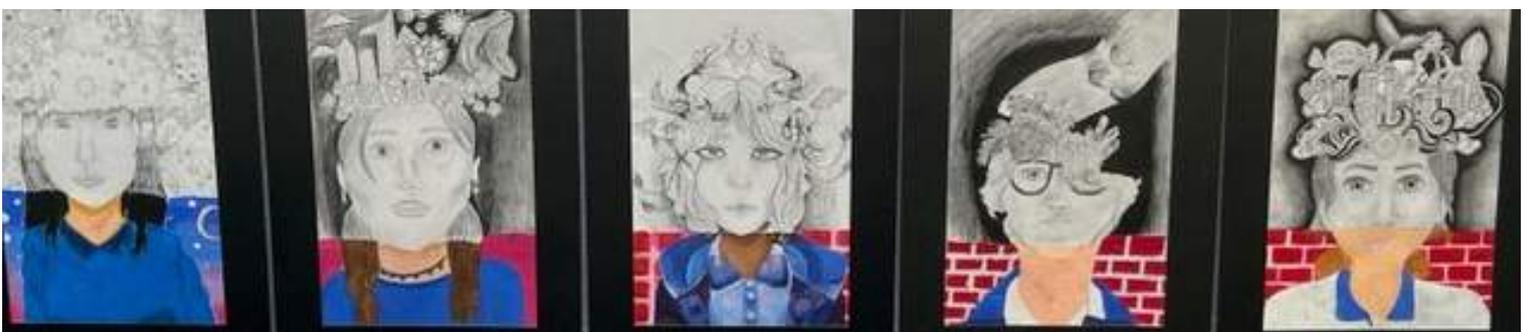
A hands-on experience that was both meditative and maniacal - they loved it, I loved it and there's still more to come!.



LIBRARY NEWS

Liz Humphries - Library Officer

It has been a wonderful year for the library with a total of 3295 books borrowed by our amazing students. The majority overwhelmingly loaned to years 7, 8 and 9. The most popular categories by a long way are Graphic Novels and Fiction. Lower school love to read and they particularly enjoy getting into an epic series with many, many volumes. The library is beautifully adorned at the moment with a huge swathe of artistic endeavours produced by our talented historians, poets and artists. We are so fortunate to have this amazing space to share. Thank you for your responsible lending and the enthusiasm you have for all our learning resources. It is a delight to see how much everyone enjoys the College library. We are so excited for 2022 and all the opportunities it brings.



Ellen Sabatino - EMITS Coordinator

Gravity Discovery Centre, Year 10 EMITS

Recently, our Year 10 EMITS students travelled to Gingin for a full day of activities at the Gravity Discovery Centre to enrich their studies in Earth and Space Science. They were treated to talks by a Quantum Mechanics Physicist who explained the fundamental forces of the universe alongside its structure, its history, and the formation of our solar system.

Students took part in a solar system walk, learning about each of the different planets and their moons, and conquered their fears, climbing the (very high) tower to complete an experiment using water balloons and gravity. The Year 10 students thoroughly enjoyed this thought provoking day out!



EMITS Awards Evening

On Tuesday the 7th December Como Secondary College held its annual EMITS Awards Evening. The event was a great success with over 230 staff, students, family and friends attending. We had a very special guest speaker, Tara Broadhurst, who is a past EMITS student and has studied and worked in science communication all over the state and overseas. She is a passionate advocate for all things STEM and did a fantastic job talking to our students on the night.



We wish to thank everyone who helped create such an enjoyable night and congratulations to both Lily Parker and Althea Perez, who were both awarded EMITS Dux for 2021, after receiving exactly the same highest overall grades in Digital Technologies, Science and Mathematics. All of their teachers wish them the best in their upper school studies.

A big congratulations to all of our subject award winners and competition award winners.

Subject awards are awarded to the students who best exemplify all of the qualities expected of an EMITS student – academic excellence, enthusiasm, perseverance and participation in all facets of the program be it extension work, competitions or extracurricular activities. The following students received this award:

Year 7:

Mathematics – Aditya Thota
Science – Jackson McKinley
Digital Technologies – Zoey Cheung

Year 8:

Mathematics – Harrison Lau
Science – Qian-Qian Wong
Digital Technologies – Amanda Hackett

Year 9:

Mathematics – Emily Murray
Science – Brodie Sedgewick
Digital Technologies – Lillian Rowe

Year 10:

Mathematics – Lily Parker
Science – Mani Walker
Digital Technologies- Althea Perez

Signing off

In closing, I would like to thank all of the EMITS staff, students and parents for their hard work, support and dedication to the program throughout this year. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as EMITS Coordinator and working with this amazing group of students. I look forward to hearing about the students' and programs' continued success next year and the years to come!



GOLF

Adam Smith - TIC

Como Family Golf Day

Thank you to all the parents, grandparents and siblings who came and supported the Como Family Golf Day at Collier Park Golf Course. It continues to be one of most enjoyable days on our events calendar .

Congratulations to Connor Vladich-McKenzie and his father Hamish who won this year's championship with an impressive 44 points. Tommy and dad (our Academy coach Tony!) won the gross prize for the 3rd year in a row with a score of 66 (-5) off the stick .

Thanks to Collier for continuing to be an outstanding supporter of our flagship events. A great day, roll on Family Day 2022



A Final Farewell at our annual Awards Evening

The Golf Awards Evening was once again a celebratory occasion with students, parents, staff and special guests enjoying the Golf Academy's achievements of 2021. With many prizes and certificates handed out we thank our guests from Royal Perth Golf Club, Golf WA, Collier Park Golf Course, Collier Park Seniors and Curtin Stadium for their support. We would also like to acknowledge the Western Australia Golf Club for their kind donation towards the trophies and Grand Cinemas who donated many vouchers as prizes.

The evening celebrated many of the year's events including our Academy Championships, with Bailey Pilapil claiming the Champion Boy prize. Bailey is now the youngest ever winner of this event. Mai Julius set her own record by winning the Champion Girl trophy for the 4th time. Congratulations to all award recipients.

Prize	Winner
Most Improved - Year 7	Mitchell Hudston
Most Improved - Year 8/9	Sean Chew
Most Improved - Year 10	Keanu Stevenson and Jarred Thomas
Most Improved - Year 11/12	Connor Vladich - McKenzie
Coaches Player - Year 7	Nariko McDonnell
Coaches Player - Year 8/9	Kimberley Innes
Coaches Player - Year 10	Brodie Ridley
Coaches Player - Year 11/12	Mai Julius
Player of the Year – Year 7	Jackson Hearn
Player of the Year – Year 8/9	Bailey Pilapil
Player of the Year – Year 10	Oliver Kerr
Player of the Year – Year 11/12	Corley McLernon and Mai Julius
Standout Student – Year 7	Kane Darmody
Standout Student – Year 8/9	Kloden Brown
Standout Student – Year 10	Sufiyah Muhammad Ashaari
Standout Student – Year 11/12	Tommy McSkimming
Most Improved student of the whole Golf Academy	Louis Fossilo
Roger Blechynden	Connor Vladich - McKenzie
Luan Wright and Character and Perseverance Award	Mai Julius
Champion Boy	Bailey Pilapil
Champion Girl	Mai Julius
Collegiate Order of Merit Winner	Mai Julius
Prospects Order of Merit Winer	Oliver Kerr
Como Away Series Winner	Jackson Hearn
Upper Schools Golf Champion	Corley McLernon
Lower Schools Golf Champion	Kai Flood - Otway
Collier Park Scholarship Recipients	Nariko McDonnell and Kloden Brown
Como Golf Academy Vice Captains 2022	Brodie Ridley Sufiyah Muhammad Ashaari
Como Golf Academy Captains 2022	Tommy McSkimming Connor Vladich - McKenzie



Music Awards 2021

Congratulations to the following students in the Specialist Music Program who were the top achievers in their respective year! Practice pays off!

- Year 7: Khayala
- Year 8: Juan-Gabriel
- Year 9: Josie
- Year 10: Lily

A special congratulations to the 2021 all-round musician – Keeley (Yr7). Throughout 2021, she has shown a passion for music, always offers to help, practices almost every morning before school, and has a great understanding of musicianship.

A special shout out to year 11 & 12 students Blake, Liam and Jackson who all received news they have successfully made it into WAAPA for 2022! Congratulations and well done, you've all worked hard and the Specialist Music Program couldn't be prouder to see you all succeed in your next musical steps!

Twilight Concert

Our annual Twilight Concert was held on December 2nd and was another big success. Thank you to all ensembles, directors, parents, staff and community members who help make this night possible! Our sausage sizzle was a sell out and all of our raffle and silent auction prizes went home with deserving winners! Well done to all performers on the night – the standards each year get higher and higher and you all strive to perform at your best.

One Big Sound!

Recently, our year 10 specialist students joined forces with the year 7 students to form a super-sized jazz band. The year 10's all buddied with instrument groups in year 7 to mentor them and provide some advice on playing their instruments. After some workshop time, we all came together to perform the year 7 charts.

Take a look [here](#)

Orientation

It has become tradition for the Year 7 Music Class to perform for the year 6 students during orientation day. This year we had two orientations and the year 7's stepped up to the challenge to perform at both! We look forward to welcoming some year 6 students into the Specialist Music family in 2022!

Carols by Brass Students

Our brass students recently went to Coolidge Reserve to perform some Christmas Carols for the residents of Regis Aged Care Como. Led by Yuria Morita, students performed festively and put smiles on many faces. We all enjoyed morning tea with the residents after the performance in the beautiful weather.

These students also performed for the staff members at Como Secondary, under the direction of Lindsay Timms and received lots of applause!



Meetings

The P&C meet once a month during term time on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7.30pm at the College in the Elicos Room. Attendance at these meetings is a great way to find out more about what is happening in the College, its future plans and how these will affect your child and your family. It is also a venue for parents to voice concerns, raise issues and discuss ideas both with the Principal and with other parents.

Second-hand uniforms

There is a second hand uniform shop located at the school. It is run by the P&C and all funds raised go towards projects to benefit all students. Non-students need to sign in at the front office and staff can assist as to where to find the shop.

The shop is run on donations only. Please consider donating any school uniforms that you no longer need, including any specialist program uniforms, e.g. black pants, white collared long sleeve shirts for music performances.

Donations: can be placed in the marked boxes in the Canteen, the front office during school hours or given to the shop when open.

OPEN EVERY FRIDAY 8.30AM – 9.15AM

LOCATION: B BLOCK

ENQUIRIES: COMOSECONDS@OUTLOOK.COM

PAYMENTS: CASH ONLY

COMO NOTICES

Please remember school zone speed limit



College Access

All visitors to the College MUST sign in at Administration.

Contact Details

Please advise changes via email to Como.SC.AdminSupport@education.wa.edu.au, or Change of Details form available at Administration. Please ensure the College has your current email address.

Contact During School Hours

Please DO NOT call the College to ask for a message to be given to your child. Please understand that with a College community of over 800 it is not possible to get messages to individual students. To avoid this issue, please ensure that after school arrangements are pre-arranged. This is part of helping students to become independent.

Drop-off

There is considerable vehicle traffic around our College site before and after school. It is expected that all vehicles use the Bruce Street car park or the marked drop-off bays to drop students off. Staff and Student car parks are NOT to be used for this purpose because it causes a great deal of congestion and potential danger to students.

Health

The Health Centre is open when the School Nurse is on site. When the Centre is open, students may access it at recess and lunch time without needing permission. If a student wishes to go during class time, permission with a note written in the College diary by their supervising teacher is required. If the Nurse is not available, students should see another member of the Student Services team or a Deputy Principal. Under no circumstances are students to contact parents/guardians directly and leave the College grounds without parents contacting the College and the student being properly signed out. In the case of injury, either a parent will be contacted or the student will be sent by ambulance to hospital, at the parent's expense.

NOTE: Please consider the health and wellbeing of others before allowing unwell students to attend school.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

These times can be stressful for many families. If you require help during this period, the following information may be of assistance.

Emergency services and help lines:

Call 000 in an emergency if you feel someone is at risk of harm OR for mental health emergency assessment, support and referral contact:

- Urgent Mental Health Telephone Support Line supports children and young people under 18 years (family who have concerns can call 24 hours a day/7 days a week incl. public holidays) - 1800 048 636

- Mental Health Emergency Response Line (MHERL) 18 years+ is 24/7 – 1300 552 002 (metro) Peel callers – 1800 676 822 (free call).

- RuralLink for Rural and remote areas from 4:30 pm to 8:30 am (Mon to Fri) and 24 hrs (Sat, Sun and public holidays) - 1800 552 002

- Find your GP after-hours clinic. Call after hours GP Helpline on 1800 022 222

Womens Domestic Violence Helpline 1800 007 339

Beyondblue 1300 224 636

Crisis Care Helpline 9223 1111

Or Country Toll Free 1800 199 008

Headspace 1800 650 890

Kids Helpline 1800 551 800

Lifeline 13 11 14

Men's Line Australia 1300 789 978

Suicide Call Back Service 1300 659 467

The Samaritans 135 247 (7AM to 7PM)